



SCARE TACTIC are a band formerly known as AS ONE. They released a four song CD that had a new school sXe sound, a few years back, on their own. In the last couple of months, they released a demo entitled "Sowhatifl'mafuckingdemo". It is fast, raw thrash incorporating elements of mosh and power violence. They sound like CITIZEN'S ARREST meets CROSSED OUT while listening to CHAIN OF STRENGTH. The band features Jesse on vocals, James on drums, Rob on bass, and Jonah on guitar. Jonah plays in CARTER SUICIDE, FUCKED UP, and BORED OF EDUCATION and Jesse is also in BORED OF EDUCATION. They are very active in the current scene. They played on Equalizing Distort on Sunday November 4th and here is some of what we talked about.

How did AS ONE form? What made you all start a band with each other?

Jonah: Well, Robert and Jesse are brothers, and James has known them both for more or less their entire lives. Jesse's uncle is James' godfather and they've always been close, so forming a band seemed natural when they all became interested in the same kind of music. The band that they originally formed was called BSE. During the year of either 1997 or 1998, I joined the band and it went from there. We changed the name (twice), changed the sound (twice) and here we are.

Describe your sound to folks. Jonah and I have had disagreements back and forth about the sound of your band. I think the fast parts are reminiscent of CHARLES BRONSON and the breakdowns sound similar to that of SHARK ATTACK. Simon has stripped this down to "play fast, raw thrash that adds elements of mosh and power violence to a solid foundation of early '80's hardcore". What do you think you sound like?

James: I think it's hard to totally describe what we sound like just because we have so many different influences, we have fast thrashy parts then we will go to a breakdown.

Jonah: It's not so much that I disagree entirely with your comparisons, but I just think our sound doesn't sound quite enough like either CHARLES BRONSON or SHARK ATTACK to earn those comparisons. CHARLES BRONSON are known for their ultra-fast blast beats and snotty vocals -and although we have "blast parts", Jesse's vocals sound rather far from Mark McCoy's, and the fast parts are a little toned down in comparison. As for SHARK ATTACK, some of the breakdowns we've written sound very much akin to that style. However, SHARK ATTACK have a sound that's particularly traditional. I think I'd read somewhere the idea behind the seven inch or the demo was to sound exactly like the ANTIDOTE record. And it does sound really similar to early New York hardcore bands like CAUSE FOR ALARM, ANTIDOTE, or THE ABUSED. Our sound is much more 'modern' - to use that word in the most positive way when referring to hardcore. I'd say our sound is fast, chunky hardcore with its song writing based in early North American Hardcore, mixed with breakdowns. Who are your influences? Who do you listen to that most sounds like your sound?

James: My influences started out with listening to pop punk when I was younger but over the years I started listening to more and more hardcore. The first thing that really got me into Toronto hardcore was when I first heard the SWARM, and LEFT FOR DEAD. It was just so angry. Those have been my biggest influences for hardcore in general, right now I'm listening to AMERICAN NIGHTMARE, CHARLES BRONSON, NINE SHOCKS TERROR, and HAYMAKER just to name a few.

Jonah: Well as far as I go, my influences mostly lie in North American Punk Rock and Hardcore from 1977-1985. Lately I've been listening to THE DESCENDENTS, JFA, ADRENALIN OD, CHANNEL 3, THE NIHILISTICS, THE FIX, THE ANGRY SAMOANS, VOM, NEON CHRIST, THE OFFENDERS, DEEP WOUND, THE VILE-

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TONES, THE MODELS and the DEAD BOYS. As for the metal sound, I guess we try and emulate the sound of LEFT FOR DEAD, or the SWARM. Those bands were great, and we all really like them. As well, they seemed to be our first real exposure to 'real' hardcore. We'd all exhausted the victory records catalogue, and when we heard these bands it changed our perception of things - as in 'there's so much more out there!' And there is, and now I've heard it...I've heard it all, and I want even more!!!

Jesse: I'm really liking a lot of the stuff that's coming out of Boston right now. Bands like AMERICAN NIGHTMARE, PANIC (who we played with two weeks ago), and bands of that ilk. I'm a sucker for old school sXe hardcore, but I think a lot of bands are limited by trying to imitate that sound (and to a large extent AS ONE was limited by that as well). I'm really excited that bands are coming up nowadays that keep the integrity of old school hardcore, but mix it up a little. It keeps things interesting. As for our sound, I think we have such an eclectic blend of everything from power violence to mosh that there isn't a band that specifically sounds like us. But our influences are vast.

Jesse: I wanted to ask you about how you get your vocals to sound so raspy and distant. It sounds like you are singing through a megaphone but with some demented distortion. Do you have any effects on your mic or is that the way your voice sounds? Jesse: That's just the way my voice comes out. Without getting too technical about things, I sort of choke the scream as it's coming out to create the almost whispery effect.

Do you have anyone in particular that you are influenced by from a vocal perspective?

Jesse: I would say that Lou Koller of SOFA has been a big influence on my vocal stylings (particularly later albums). But certainly bands like CROSSED OUT and the H-100 s have also been pretty big influences.

On the CD you did this cover of "United Worldwide" and I assume that the name, AS ONE, was taken from the WARZONE song by the same name. Is WARZONE still a big influence in the band?

James: No

Jesse: The WARZONE thing died rather quickly, at least the influence on the sound of the band. I think we were so influenced by WARZONE because they were one of the first HC bands we really got into (and I still listen to at least three WARZONE records on a relatively consistent basis). But as our influences grew, our sound evolved and we realised that there were a whole lot of bands out there that blow WARZONE out of the water.

With the CD, I noticed there was more of an emphasis on breakdowns. With the demo the songs seem more to the point, so there is some brevity to them and there is more hardcore youth crew parts as opposed to the crunchy chuga parts. Do you notice a sound change? If so how do you account for it?

James: I definitely noticed a sound change, when we recorded the AS ONE CD. I was really into STRIFE, and 25 TA LIPS, it was all about breakdowns.

Jonah: Basically we just matured musically. When the songs for the CD were written, our knowledge of Punk Rock and Hardcore was pretty limited. I started getting into old hardcore and particularly influential bands of the last decade and started writing all the songs, and the rest of the band followed suit and our sound changed. I guess you can still kind of hear our old ways creeping back every now and then. To quote the DICTATORS "we just wanted to play faster and louder."

Jesse: Again, it comes down to a variety of influences. When we wrote the CD we were listening to a lot of NYHC, and not just older stuff, but a lot of VICTORY RECORDS shit (and I use the word shit strongly). So when you have such a narrow range of influences, chances are your sound isn't going to be that great.

Can you tell us about the recording of your latest demo? Where and how did you record it?

James: It was recorded in Jesse and Rob's basement by their uncle. He has a reel-to-reel 8 track recorder and he spent a lot of time trying to get the sound we wanted. It was done in the winter of 2000-2001.

Jonah: Jesse's uncle has been playing in bands for quite some time (25 years!) and knows a ton about sound. He'd made a makeshift recording studio in Jesse's basement that he used to record small projects on with his band THE WHITE HOUSE, and he'd actually never done anything like our band before.

Jesse: By the grace of Lucifer (and our uncle's enthusiasm and perfectionism) the recording came out really well.

Up until a couple of weeks ago, you were AS ONE. Now you are called SCARE TACTIC. Why the name change?

James: We were no longer such enthusiastic WARZONE fans. The name didn't really represent our music.

Jonah: The demo we released is being pressed to vinyl. After it's release, we'd heard from Simon Harvey, that there might be label interest as to pressing the demo. Knowing Simon and his prankster ways, we pawned it off as Simon pulling our legs. But as it turns out, Dave Partridge (aka Dave Laet) offered to put out our demo on a seven inch as the first release on his new label, "The Solomon Method Records." Needless to say we jumped on the opportunity. We had thought about changing the name for some time before as well, and we figured once a record was out there's no turning back, so we might as well change it now.

Is there any significance behind the name SCARE TACTIC?

James: Jonah has a whole story about how we got the name.

Jonah: I got the name from an AOD song, but it's not that that song has any particular significance (other than the fact that it was written by the almighty ADRENALIN OVERDRIVE-who have a song for almost every occasion). I think it's a good name, and is fitting for our sound.

SCARE TACTIC



On the demo you did a cover of "Jimmy Swaggart stuck his pee pee in my poo poo" by Sons of Ishmael. Tonight you were going to attempt a cover of "Small Town Mentality". What is it about Sons of Ishmael that appeals to you to be an unofficial tribute band?

James: They were an awesome band that was from our area, and we were recording songs for a compilation called "Toronto not Ballet".

Jonah: The first time I ever heard the SONS OF ISHMAEL was on Equalizing Distort. I was visiting the show - probably about two years ago and in the midst of helping you file CD's, a fast snotty song the likes of which I hadn't heard much of came over the speakers. It immediately caught my interest, and I asked about the phantom song, to which you replied - "it's the SONS OF ISHMAEL, from Meaford, Ontario. This song is called the "Halloween Party" and you went on to explain the story behind the song. I just thought it was a really great song, and the fact that they were from so close to Toronto really intrigued me, as well. Soon after I found their record at Full Blast and loved it (it wasn't even their best record). When we went in to record it was originally for a Toronto hardcore compilation called 'This is Toronto, not ballet' and I thought it would be cool to cover a band from in and around Toronto. So we did even though we tried learning 'Man and his Penis Scepter' we couldn't quite hack it on the spot, so "Jimmy Swaggart" it was. We had planned to cover 'Small Town Mentality' but the lyrics went AWOL at the crucial moment (when we were going to play it).

Jesse: I think it's safe to say that we sound very little like SOI, but that's what's so fun about covering their tunes. We always like it when bands throw a curve ball. For instance we've covered 'Children in Heat' live, and there's been some talk of a NEW BOMB TURKS cover.

Can you tell us about your songs. What do you sing about?

Jesse: We have a wide variety of topics. Some of them are more direct, like "Our Voice Pro-Choice", while others are more introspective. I just write about what's on my mind, and I think that's important because if you don't feel what you're singing it's tough to be sincere.

What is your favourite song from a lyrical standpoint and why?

James: Just recently I like the song "Sick of Fun" that Jonah sings. I don't know all the words to all the songs except for the one that I sing, but I really like a few lines in "Sick of Fun".

Jonah: For me it's either "Step Right Up" or "Sick of Fun". The reason I like those is probably because I wrote the lyrics, but I think they are personal stuff so that's why it's so easy to relate. "Step

Right Up" is basically about me evaluating my peers when I was like 16. I went to this keg party and got drunk and watched all my friends do the same thing. I felt particularly shitty in the morning (without the hangover) and I just thought of how weird it was that all these kids rush to something so fake to change themselves from what they are, needless to say I didn't follow my own advice at all, but it's like the song says 'this is the beginning of the end.' Maybe one day. "Sick of Fun" is pretty self explanatory. I just started University, and the 'mad parties,' and blah blah bullshit gets on my nerves sometimes. It seems like I can't quite feel normal doing what they do, and it makes me wanna scream until my throat bleeds...so now I do.

Jesse: I really like 'The City Smells Like Garbage', which is a newer song. Without being all emo about things, that song really means a lot to me on a personal level, and it's really cathartic to sing those words.

What are the bands plans for recording, playing out, touring?

James: We're always up for playing shows. We plan to record pretty much as soon as possible, and for touring it depends if my parents will let us borrow their truck to carry equipment.

Jonah: Put out records that someone might want some day, play out a lot, and get people to know about our band.

Jesse: We'll probably be recording again soon. We're going to be on a comp that Craig Caron is putting out, so we'll be recording for that. As for playing out/ touring there is some talk of doing a joint tour with BxOxx and SCARE TACTIC this summer. Other than that, we'll play anywhere, essentially.

What else do you hope to do as a band?

James: Play as many shows as possible and maybe sell a couple records in the process.

Jesse: We just want to get our record out to as many people as possible. I'd love to tour and meet new bands and scene kids. I'm really excited about the possibility of being in a serious band.

How can people get in touch with you?

James: upyourasswithallyourgossip@hotmail.com

Jonah: They can take their gossip and put it up their ass...but only at hotmail.com. As well, it's likely that we'll be getting a P.O. Box, so look out for that...

Are there any last comments?

James: Thanks for the support.

Jonah: Thank you Stephe Perry - Faith Healer/Drug Dealer/Girl Stealer, and keep an eye out for the SCARE TACTIC e/t seven inch on Solomon Method Records!

Jesse: Jonah is ugly. Stephe is the shit! Thanks for everything.

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